

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2775

UNCLAS HONG KONG 12075

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: IPPF 1975 PROGRAM

REF: STATE 228122

1. FPA, HK, HAS ORDERED ONLY THROUGH MARCH 1976.
2. COMMERCIAL PRICE IS HK\$3 TO 6 (US\$0.60 TO 1.20) PER CYCLE. FPA PRICE VARIES FROM GRATIS TO HK\$1.50 (US\$0.30). SLIDING SCALE FOR CYCLE CHARGE IS BASED UPON INCOME AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN. FPA PREFERS TO CHARGE AT LEAST NOMINAL RATE FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL PURPOSES (I. E. POPULAR PRECONCEPTION THAT THE GRATIS ITEMS ARE WORTHLESS); PRICE DOES NOT SEEM TO BE A BARRIER; THOSE WHO MOST NEED PROGRAM ARE RECEIPIENTS OF LOWER COST CYCLES; FPA REPORTS NO APPARENT CORRELATION BETWEEN PRICE AND USE. NO DIFFERENTIAL FOR BLUE LADY PILLS. NO CHARGE FOR CLINIC OR RETURN VISITS.
3. BLUE LADY PACKAGE IS USED. WARNING IS NO BARRIER TO ACCEPTANCE.
4. THE SLIDING SCALE, CITED IN PARA 2, IS FURTHER ADJUSTED TO CHARGE LESS TO RURAL PEOPLE AND BOAT PEOPLE.
5. PARAMEDICS DISTRIBUTE PILLS BUT DO NOT INSERT IUD'S.
6. IN JUNE 1974, A COMMUNITY-BASED DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WAS STARTED. IT IS SONSORED BY THE UNITARIAN SERVICE COMMITTEE OF CANADA AND EMPLOYS TEN WELFARE WORKERS.

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7. FPA, HK IS VERY EFFECTIVE AND ENJOYS SUBSTANTIAL BACKING FROM THE HKG (SUBVENTIONS IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TOTAL HK\$1.8 MILLION (US\$366,000). THE HKG IS TAKING OVER FAMILY PLANNING IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS BUT FPA IS RUNNING 13 FULL-TIME AND 13 PART-TIME CLINICS IN HOUSING ESTATES. IN 1956, HK'S BIRTH RATE WAS 39.7 PER THOUSAND; THE 1973 RATE WAS 20, DESPITE A HIGH PROPORTION OF WOMEN OF CHILD-BEARING AGE IN THE POPULATION (17.5).

FOLLOWING PARAS KEYED TO PARA C REFTEL:

1. AS HKG TAKES ON MORE OF THE MECHANICS OF DISTRIBUTION, FPA IS INCREASING ITS IE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING FILMS, POSTERS, RADIO SPOTS, AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS. WHILE IT STILL HAS A HEAVY CLINICAL BURDEN IN URBAN AREAS, IT IS TRYING TO REACH RURAL AREAS AND BOAT PEOPLE. WE CONSIDER THE LEADERSHIP BOTH WELL MOTIVATED AND EFFECTIVE.

2. YES, SEE PARAS B5 AND 6 -ABOVE.

3. WHILE HKG STILL HAS NO BASIS POPULATION POLICY, FPA HAS STEADILY PRODDED GOVERNMENT TO TAKE OVER MORE RESPONSIBILITIES IN FIELD.

PARA D: WE CONSIDER FPA, HK ONE OF THE MORE EFFECTIVE IPPF AFFILIATES ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.
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